## EXHIBIT H

## WILLIAM J. WAGNER vs. CHIARI & ILECKI, LLP.

## WILLIAM ILECKI, ESQ. October 5, 2016



Buffalo, NY: 716 856-1906 Rochester, NY: 585 697-0969 Toll Free: 800 397-1796

Min-U-Script® with Word Index

1	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2	WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK
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4	WILLIAM J. WAGNER,
5	Plaintiff,
6 7	vs Docket No. 15-CV-633-JTC
8	CHIARI & ILECKI, LLP,
9	Defendant.
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11	Examination Before Trial of WILLIAM ILECKI, ESQ., held
12	pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, in
13	the law offices of CONNORS LLP, 1000 Liberty Building,
14	424 Main Street, Buffalo, New York, on Wednesday,
15	October 5, 2016 at 10:08 a.m. before Molly Fenske,
16	Notary Public.
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1	(Whereupon, the following stipulations
2	were entered into by the respective parties:
3	It is hereby stipulated by and between
4	counsel for the respective parties that the oath of
5	the referee is waived, that filing and certification
6	of the transcript are waived, and all objections,
7	except as to the form of the question, are reserved
8	until the time of trial.)
9	THE REPORTER: Mr. Andrews, you'll supply
10	Mr. Woodard?
11	MR. ANDREWS: Yes.
12	THE REPORTER: Usual stipulations or read
13	and sign?
14	THE WITNESS: Usual stipulations are fine
15	with me because it allows me the opportunity to review
16	it.
17	MR. WOODARD: Yeah, perfect.
18	(A recess was taken.)
19	THE REPORTER: Would you like sixty days?
20	MR. WOODARD: That would be great. Is
21	that okay?
22	THE WITNESS: Yeah.
23	WILLIAM ILECKI, ESQ., 371 Starin Avenue,
24	Buffalo, New York 14216, having been duly called and
25	sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

1	MR. ANDREWS: Mr. Ilecki, my name is Seth
2	Andrews. I'm the attorney for the plaintiff, William
3	J. Wagner, in this matter. Mr. Wagner filed a lawsuit
4	in the Western District of New York naming Chiari and
5	Ilecki as a defendant alleging violations of the Fair
6	Debt Collection Practices Act.
7	You've been designated as the 30(b)(6)
8	witness for today's deposition. I will be asking you
9	questions in that capacity. You've also been noticed
10	as a 30(b)(1) witness. I'll be sure to indicate if my
11	question pertains to you. Otherwise, you should
12	assume that it's the 30(b)(6) as you're testifying; is
13	that understood?
14	THE WITNESS: I understand, so you're
15	telling me you will reference specifically if I'm to
16	answer as an individual witness?
17	MR. ANDREWS: Correct. Otherwise, assume
18	the question is posed
19	THE WITNESS: I understand.
20	MR. ANDREWS: Before we begin, I'm sure as
21	an attorney you know this, but I just want to cover
22	some ground rules.
23	I'm going to ask you some questions. Do
24	your best to provide me with responses.
25	Please try to wait until I finish before

1 you answer, even if you think you know where I'm going 2 or, you know, so we can keep a clear record for the 3 court reporter. If at any time you need a break, please 4 let me know. I just ask that if there's a pending 5 6 question, you answer it prior to any break. 7 You've got to give verbal responses, and that's pretty much it. 8 9 EXAMINATION BY MR. ANDREWS: Have you -- is there any reason you can't 10 Ο. 11 provide truthful and accurate testimony today? 12 There is no reason I cannot provide truthful 13 and accurate testimony to the best of my knowledge. 14 No medications that would prevent recall? 15 You're not on any medication that would... I'm not on any medication that would prevent 16 Α. recall. 17 What's your date of birth? 18 Ο. 19 Α. 1964. 20 Where were you born? Ο. 2.1 Buffalo, New York. Α. And what's the highest level of education 22 23 you've obtained? 24 Α. Graduated from law school.

And where did you graduate from?

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- A. University of Buffalo.
- Q. Do you recall when you graduated?
- 3 A. Yes, 1989.

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- Q. And in preparation for today's examination, did
  you discuss the case with anyone other than your
  attorney?
  - A. I did not discuss the case in detail with anyone else, although there was a meeting at my office with my staff that is scheduled to be testifying today with my attorney.
- 11 Q. So the attorney was present for this meeting?
- 12 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. Did you have any discussions with anyone outside of your attorney in preparation for today's deposition?
- A. I did have discussion with the people that are testifying today.
- 18 Q. Outside of the presence of your attorney?
- 19 A. Correct.
- 20 Q. What did you discuss?
- A. Scheduling with them, how we would cover my office while they're gone, and also, we discussed whether I might be present during their testimony.
- Q. Did you discuss any specific defenses or in any way discuss any factual or legal issues of the case?

- A. With Melissa Overbeck I did, but as to the other individuals, no.
  - Q. What did you discuss with Melissa?

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- A. With Melissa Overbeck, we reviewed the responses to the disclosure demands both by the defendant and by the plaintiff, and we also did discuss generally how -- whether I would be present when she was testifying, and also, you know, the timing of her testimony just as I indicated with the other individuals.
- Q. But nothing with respect to anything specific in terms of -- you mentioned responses. Were there any particular responses that you discussed?
- A. It was a very general conversation in terms of me advising her I was going to review the responses before I testified and she should also review the responses before she testified.
  - Q. So general housekeeping; fair to say?
- A. Yeah. To cut to the case, I did not tell her how I was going to testify or did not tell her how she should testify.
- Q. No, I assumed that. I was just wondering if there was certain specific things that you guys discussed, but it sounds like it was just more scheduling; fair to say?

- A. Except with Melissa, we did discuss the fact that we would both review the documents provided to us, both by -- the plaintiff's responses to discovery demands, those documents were provided to us by our attorney, as well as our responses, the defendant's responses to plaintiff's discovery demands.
- Q. Did you review those responses separately or jointly?
  - A. Separately.
  - Q. Have you ever testified in court before?
- 11 A. Yes.

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- 12 Q. How many times?
- 13 A. In court, I believe twice.
- 14 O. And that was as a party or a witness?
- 15 A. One was a party and one was as a witness.
- Q. And the party, were you a plaintiff or the defendant?
- 18 A. I was the plaintiff.
  - Q. And again, this is Chiari and Ilecki we're speaking of; right? We're not talking about William?
    - A. Well, you asked me if I was here testifying, if I ever testified, and I guess your point was -- I'm talking about unless you specified that I was talking about me individually, that I would be testifying as a representative of Chiari & Ilecki.

- Q. Let me rephrase so we're clear.
- A. But I can't imagine how Chiari & Ilecki could testify, so the question has to be about me
- 4 personally. The firm can't testify.

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know?

- Q. Well, the firm can have a representative, you
- 7 A. But you asked if I ever testified.
- Q. In your capacity as the firm, not you, not Bill
  Ilecki being a named --
- A. In my capacity as a representative of the firm,

  I do not believe I've ever testified in court.
- Q. Have you ever provided any prior deposition testimony in your capacity as a principal of the firm?
  - A. I did testify once, so the answer is yes. It was a predecessor firm. The firms merged, so yes. If you're counting Chiari & Ilecki as the same entity that merged into Chiari & Ilecki, yes, I did testify.
  - O. And what was that case involving?
- A. That case involved a malpractice claim against the firm relative to real estate transaction.
- Q. The other instance I believe you said you testified as a witness; is that correct?
- 23 A. What other case?
- Q. You said -- I don't want to misconstrue your testimony. I thought you said that you testified as a

party and also as a witness?

- A. Correct, but as you pointed out, not related to the firm, not related to an action involving the firm.
  - Q. Okay. What was that action regarding?
- A. Just to be clear, so now you want me to answer as a personal witness?
- Q. Yeah, because you're saying that you were a witness not involved with Chiari & Ilecki.
- 9 A. So now you're asking me to testify personally 10 as witness?
- 11 Q. Correct.

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- A. And you're asking me the nature of the actions where I testified?
- 14 O. As a witness.
- A. The one action I testified as a party was my divorce, and the other action where I testified as a witness was a -- involved a motion to vacate a judgment.
- 19 Q. That your firm wasn't involved in that motion?
- A. My firm -- that's not the question that you asked though. My firm was not a party.
  - Q. So you were a witness and provided testimony regarding a motion to vacate a judgment, and was that judgment creditor represented by your office?
- 25 A. Yes, correct.

- Q. After you graduated law school, do you recall where you first were employed?
  - A. Yes, I was employed -- I was a law clerk for Joseph Ryan Gold.
- Q. And how long did you do that for?
- A. I had been a law clerk for him just a little over two years.
  - Q. And then after clerking, what came next?
- 9 A. Then I went to work for a company called Action
  10 Management, Incorporated.
- 11 Q. What kind of work do they do -- did they do?
- 12 A. They were a collection agency.
- Q. Collection agency, okay.

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- 14 Were you in-house counsel?
- 15 A. In-house counsel, yes.
- 16 Q. How long did you work for them for?
- 17 A. About six months, maybe five months.
- 18 0. And then what was after?
- A. Then I -- my next job was with -- at the time
  was Horwitz and Frankel was the name.
- Q. And how long were you with them for?
- 22 A. That's the firm that continues to this day.
- Q. All right, so you've been -- three different transitions or is there more?
- 25 A. When you say transitions, you mean three

different -- I've had since -- since graduating from
law school, I've had --

- Q. Your firm, your current firm went through three different name transitions?
- A. Okay. The firm was initially Horwitz and Frankel. The next -- and that's F-R-A-N-K-E-L, and Horwitz is H-O-R-W-I-T-Z; changed the name to Horwitz, Frankel and Ilecki; then Horwitz and Ilecki; and then we merged in 2006 to become Bulan, B as in Brian, U-L-A-N as in Nancy, Chiari, Horwitz and Ilecki; and then we shortened the name in 2010 to Chiari & Ilecki.
- Q. Starting when it was first Horwitz to the present, Chiari & Ilecki, how long has your tenure been with the firm?
- A. I believe twenty-six years, twenty-five, maybe a little less than twenty-five years or twenty-six -- maybe a little less than twenty-six years, more than twenty-five years.
- Q. And during that time, this is now a question for you as a (b)(1) witness, does your practice -- did your practice from beginning to end involve the collection of debts?
- 23 A. Yes.

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Q. Does Chiari & Ilecki handle any other type of matters besides debt collection?

- 1 A. Yes.
- Q. What other matters, generally speaking?
- A. Landlord-tenant, some minor estate and real estate.
- Q. The vast majority is debt collection though?
- 6 A. The majority is debt collection, yes.
- Q. And approximately how many employees are there at Chiari & Ilecki?
- 9 A. Thirteen.
- Q. How many attorneys are there at Chiari & Ilecki?
- 12 A. There are five attorneys in the firm. We have 13 two attorneys that we have in an of counsel position.
- 14 O. Do those two of counsel count for the thirteen?
- A. No, they're not employees. They don't count as the five either.
- 17 Q. So eight non-attorney employees?
- A. No, you asked how many attorneys. There are two partners, three attorneys.
- Q. And then my next question is how many if -- you said thirteen; right? So eight non-attorney employees?
- A. That would be ten. The partners aren't employees.
- Q. You work for a living.

- 1 A. Not as an employee, it's a lot worse.
- Q. Are employees at Chiari & Ilecki trained in
- 3 Fair Debt Collection Practices Act compliance?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 O. Who trains them?
- 6 A. I do primarily. We have also had the employees
- 7 take and have to pass a course in Fair Debt Collection
- 8 Practices Act law.
- 9 Q. Is that course administered by a third-party or
- 10 is it internal?
- 11 A. It was a third-party.
- 12 Q. Is that still the policy today?
- 13 A. Yes, yeah.
- 14 O. At the time of the allegations in the
- 15 complaint, February 2015 through June 2015 --
- 16 A. Before you finish, the attorneys also attend
- 17 seminars too.
- 18 Q. Okay. Was that policy also in place during
- 19 that time period as well?
- 20 A. During the time period of the --
- 21 Q. Of the alleged --
- 22 A. -- relevant allegations in this action, yes.
- 23 Q. Okay. What is the process if someone doesn't
- 24 pass the exam?
- 25 A. I don't think we've ever had somebody who

didn't pass the test, everybody has. They wouldn't be allowed to handle any collections communications.

Q. Is that test --

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- A. With debtors, with debtors.
- Q. Is that test provided prior to they -- they start working active accounts?
- A. Well, there's a big difference between working an account and communications with debtors because we can have someone that inputs mail. You might call it working an account. I might even call it working an account, but it doesn't mean there's a communication with the debtor. We can have somebody answer the phone and simply transfer calls. They may not have taken that test yet, although they would have received my initial training and they would have received materials that I provide, which basically are copies of the law, of the statutes, state and federal, effecting debt collection.
- Q. So does an employee, before they can have any contact with a debtor or any what I'll call meaningful work product done on the account, skip tracing, identifying assets, things of that nature, do they have to pass this third-party test?

MR. WOODARD: Form.

THE WITNESS: Yeah, I'm going to ask you

- 1 to clarify that because you're presuming that the
- employees do those things. The question presumes it.
- 3 Maybe it would help -- I'm not -- just to speed things
- 4 up, it might help if I explained the skip tracing
- 5 portion.
- 6 BY MR. ANDREWS:
- 7 Q. Well, do non-attorneys skip trace?
- 8 A. Generally, no.
- 9 Q. Okay.
- 10 A. The attorneys and primarily me, I do all the initial skip tracing on every file.
- 12 Q. Did you do it on Mr. Wagner's?
- 13 A. On Mr. Wagner's file, yes. Now, let me just
- 14 state this. Mr. Wagner's file is so old that it may
- 15 have been sued by a -- by our predecessor firm. It
- 16 may have been sued by Goldstein, Bulan and Chiari. So
- 17 it was the firm we merged with, but once the file was
- 18 placed in our system, I reviewed the file.
- 19 Q. Once it was placed in the Chiari and --
- 20 A. Once we -- right, correct, so I would have
- 21 reviewed the files initially, which is the process
- 22 that we have. Now, you had asked about skip tracing.
- Q. Hang on one second, I want to...
- 24 A. I just want to -- I have to complete the
- 25 answer.

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BY MR. ANDREWS:

There are two paralegals that I have trained to skip trace. They do very little of it, but they have been starting to review our records for skip tracing purposes. Did either of those individuals have any skip tracing activity done on Mr. Wagner's file? Α. No. This is a document that was produced by the Ο. defendant in response to plaintiff's discovery demands. It's bates labeled Chiari 164, 165 and 166. Do you see that? Α. I see 164. I see 165 and I see 166, yes. Can you explain to me what this is? MR. WOODARD: Are we marking this or no? MR. ANDREWS: No, not yet. THE WITNESS: This document is a print-out of an Excel spreadsheet that details the -- we call them events, things that happen on a file that are noted on our Microsoft Access database program. a proprietary program, and this document relates to the events on the William J. Wagner, Junior file that we have where our client is MJ Peterson, LLC. (Whereupon, Exhibit Plaintiff's A, an events sheet, was marked for identification.)

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- Q. Mr. Ilecki, you previously testified that you do the skip tracing on this account; correct? Initial skip tracing?
- A. The initial -- the initial account. As I've indicated, this account was so old it actually was initially opened and a judgment taken by Goldstein, Bulan and Chiari.
- Q. So when Chiari & Ilecki received it, it was in a judgment status?
- A. Correct. Well, again, I have to clarify it.

  After the merger or before the merger it was in a judgment status, yes.
  - Q. So did you do any skip tracing during the time periods that are indicated on this document, which would be from September of 2006 through June of 2015?
  - A. The skip tracing would have occurred before the file was even converted, the initial skip tracing.
  - Q. I understand that. I'm saying did you do an additional skip tracing on this account?
  - A. Myself personally, it does not look like I did any work on the file whatsoever.
  - Q. So why don't you take a moment, unless you know the answer off the top of your head, and review it with respect to who did the skip tracing from September 2006 through June of 2015 for this file?

- A. Well, I probably did the skip tracing before the file was converted.
  - O. But I want to --
- A. So that might have been in September. Your
  question was September 2016 (sic), so it may have been
  September in 2016 when I gave it to someone to convert
  on our system. See, they didn't have a computer
  system at Goldstein, Bulan and Chiari, so there
  wouldn't have been any way to keep track of what they
- 11 Q. So if we look at 164?

did to review an account.

12 A. Okay.

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- Q. And we look at, oh, I don't know, event comment. It says --
- 15 A. I'm at page 164.
- 16 Q. Yep.
- 17 A. Which event?
- Q. Event comment, and I'm going to read the
- 19 comment. It says letter to server to serve. Do you
- 20 see that?
- A. If you give me a date, you'll see there are dates here.
- 23 Q. August 10, 2007 event date?
- 24 A. Okay, so August 10, 2007. I do see the
- 25 document.

- Q. It says letter to server to serve?
- 2 A. Correct.
  - Q. And you're serving an order to show cause?
- 4 A. Okay.

- Q. Is that correct, or attempted to, attempted to?
- A. It looks like on August 9th we received a copy
  of a filed order to show cause to punish the judgment
  debtor for contempt for non-compliance with an
  information subpoena, and then on August 10th a letter
- was sent to the server to serve that order to show
- 11 cause.
- Q. And then you received an affidavit of
  non-service stating that the debtor no longer lives at
  Windermere Boulevard; is that right?
- 15 A. It looks like on August 14, 2007 we received 16 from our process server either an affidavit of
- 17 non-service or a letter of non-service indicating that
- 18 the address at 378 Windermere was not correct.
- Q. So my question is what steps did you take to identify that address as the correct address for the
- 21 debtor?
- A. You mean initially, before we sent the order to show cause out for service?
- 24 Q. Yes.
- 25 A. At this time we had a Lexis program, and I

don't know if it was SmartLinx back in 2007, although 1 2 I believe it was called SmartLinx in 2007. So the effort that we would have taken would have been to 3 review that SmartLinx program to confirm that the 4 address on Windermere was showing as a correct 5 address, as well as to review the file itself. 6 7 That report doesn't show up on this activity loq? 8 9 What report? Α. The report you just testified you would have 10 Ο. reviewed, this Lexis report; correct? 11 You asked me what we did to confirm this 12 13 address, and I'm saying that is done -- the initial review is done before the file is even converted, so 14 15 there wouldn't have been any notation because we didn't have the file in our system. 16 17 Let's back up. So you said that there was no -- the prior incarnation of Chiari & Ilecki, Bulan, 18 Chiari, Horwitz and Ilecki, do I have that right? 19 20 Bulan, Chiari, Horwitz and Ilecki was created 2.1 in 2006. We -- our first date I think where we 22 practiced was August 2006. 23 That's the direct predecessor to Chiari & 24 Ilecki; correct?

Form.

MR. WOODARD:

THE WITNESS: Actually, that is -- when 1 2 you say predecessor, we just simply changed the name. BY MR. ANDREWS: 3 4 All right, so it's the same entity? Α. It's the same entity. 5 This William J. Wagner file was received by the 6 Ο. 7 firm, and at that time, there wasn't any case management system in place? 8 MR. WOODARD: Object to form. THE WITNESS: Yeah, I can -- there was no 10 11 case management system, computerized case management 12 system employed by Goldstein, Bulan and Chiari. 13 Goldstein, Bulan and Chiari filed the lawsuit and took 14 the judgment. So the judgment was in place by 15 Goldstein, Bulan and Chiari, and they either submitted the judgment before the merger or actually obtained 16 17 the judgment before the merger, so nothing would have 18 been done by that 2006 merged firm. Nothing would 19 have been done to obtain the judgment. 20 BY MR. ANDREWS: So my -- I guess what I'm trying to get at is 2.1 22 this is the only record you have of activity done on 23 the account. Anything prior, there was no -- there's 24 no case management tracking of it; correct? 25 There are copies. There are copies of Α. Okay.

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documents, but there's no case management system, whether it be computerized or written, where an attorney would actually write notes of everything that happened.

- Q. So when you previously testified that the address 378 Windermere Boulevard was determined to be the address through a Lexis search, is that from memory? Because there's no record of that as far as an activity log because there was no case management system at the time; correct?
- A. Again, I'm going to object to the form myself because there's a lot in that question. Before a file is placed on our computer database, I review the file. I review the Lexis program. Today, it's a Westlaw program. We also have a Lexis program. We actually have both, but it's accurate today. There's no more SmartLinx, so I review those websites. That review is done before a file is placed on our computer system, so you will never see a notation before a file is open that a review is made. It's just done.
- Q. And you know that because you're the only one that does it?
- A. I'm not the only one that does it. My paralegal today is reviewing new files and then I review after her. I have had attorneys also review

files, attorneys I'm training for example. All new attorneys that start, I have them review Westlaw and Lexis. For the new attorneys, I then review what they've looked at. They will -- it's part of the training. So back in 2006, other than me, I don't know who else at that time would have also reviewed the file before the conversion.

Q. Okay. So is there a procedure in place then -after that initial Lexis search was done, is there a
procedure in place to determine a proper address upon
being notified that the address you thought was good
based on your Lexis search, which turns out isn't, is
there a procedure that would help you identify a good
address?

## A. Correct.

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MR. WOODARD: I'm just going to object to I guess asking to some extent this line of questioning and asking him about procedures in place at a time that's not really relevant to the lawsuit. I'll give you some leeway, but I just do want to note the objection.

THE WITNESS: And I appreciate it. There have been procedures in place. To determine a correct address, you have to be notified of an incorrect address my entire practice, so that's a fact.

1 Now, I do want to say that we also run 2 credit reports. I cannot tell here when we ran a credit report first because I don't remember when we 3 started including the requests for a credit report in 4 the events. The credit report used to be requested 5 without an event being created. So in addition to a 6 7 Lexis or Westlaw search, there is a review of credit reports done on every file at some point where we have 8 a judgment just about, unless it's paid or a 9 bankruptcy is filed. 10 BY MR. ANDREWS: 11 12 Ο. If we go back to 164, and if we look at May 10, 13 2011 for the event date? Are you with me? 14 Α. Yep. And it looks like it says previous address, 15 1571 Eggert Road, Wagner, William J.? 16 17 Α. Okay. 18 How did you determine if 1571 Eggert Road was a possible address? 19 20 Well, I again would not have been the one who 2.1 would have reviewed this, but you can see prior to the May 10, 2011 events, you will see the attorneys who 22 23 reviewed the file for actually over two years, over a 24 two-year period. So I -- so they would have been the 25 ones who determined a new address, and they would have

1 determined a new address reviewing credit reports and 2 Lexis primarily. Of course, they could have also determined new address in this case from a PO. It 3 looks like a PO box letter that may have gone out or a 4 judgment letter may have gone out because you look at 5 the event on April 7, 2011, letter, post office 6 7 address request, that is a letter to the post office requesting a new address. 8 9 O. And presumably then the post office provided 1571 Eggert Road? 10 MR. WOODARD: Form. 11 12 THE WITNESS: Well, we have on April 14, 13 2011, actually, I don't have -- other than the April 14 14, 2011, you'll see the USPS PO box letter returned. 15 It looks like no change of address that you would see on April 14, 2011. 16 BY MR. ANDREWS: 17 So at this point, we're in 2011. The file was 18 19 opened sometime prior to September of 2006; is that 20 correct? 2.1 Again, the file would have been opened by Goldstein, Bulan and Chiari before September 2006. 22 23 So we're five years in, and has there been any Ο. 24 contact with the debtor at this point that you can see 25

from this event log?

- A. Well, there would have been contact with the debtor by the prior firm.
  - Q. How do you know that?

- A. They served the debtor.
- 5 Q. Was he personally served?
- A. I don't know how he was served, but he was served.
- Q. Do you know if it was a default judgment entered?
- 10 A. I do not know, but I do not know off the top of 11 my head, but it would be in the documentation.
- Q. After entry of the judgment, do you know if
  there was any contact between September '06 and May of
  2011 with the debtor?
- A. From September 2006?
- 16 Q. To May of 2011, which...
- 17 A. There was contact.
- 18 0. What contact?
- A. There was a letter sent to the debtor on
- 20 January 13, 2007.
- Q. For a contempt motion?
- 22 A. No.
- Q. I apologize. I see, yep. That's the letter informing that Chiari & Ilecki is now handling the
- 25 matter?

- A. It is a letter informing the debtor of the new -- of the merged firm handling the matter, providing that letter also includes the CPLR 5222, notice of judgment debtor. It would have included a copy of the judgment as well.
- Q. And that was sent certified, the debtor signed for that letter?
- 8 A. No.

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- Q. So you don't know whether he received the letter then?
- 11 A. Well, the letter was mailed to the debtor.
- Q. I know, but what I'm trying to ask is you can mail a letter, but maybe that's not the correct address. Do you have any knowledge that he received that letter? It wasn't sent certified. He didn't
- 16 sign for it; correct?
- A. There is a presumption of mailing, so I have that knowledge.
- Q. If that address happens to be the correct address?
- A. What do you mean by correct address? I need to clarify that.
- Q. Well, you can mail something and there's a presumption that whoever it's addressed to receives it, but if they're not living at that address, they

don't reside at that address, then they wouldn't 1 2 receive it; correct? 3 MR. WOODARD: Form. THE WITNESS: That's incorrect. 4 MR. ANDREWS: So you can mail something to 5 someone -- your testimony today is you can mail some 6 7 -- mail correspondence to an address, and regardless of that -- whether or not in reality the person 8 resides at that address, they're deemed to have 9 received that? 10 11 MR. WOODARD: Form. 12 THE WITNESS: That's a different question. 13 BY MR. ANDREWS: 14 I want to know what proof you have that the debtor received that letter in January of 2007. 15 One of the methods of proof we have is the 16 Α. letter was mailed and not returned. 17 What -- you said one of them, what other... 18 Ο. 19 Α. The presumption of mailing. 20 Is it possible that the letter was sent to that Ο. 2.1 address and someone else lived there and just simply 22 threw it away? 23 If you're asking me a hypothetical, that is Α. 24 always a possibility in every single piece of mail 25 that's ever mailed.

- Q. What I'm -- just to clarify, the debtor never called into the office stating he received this letter in January of 2007; correct?
- A. In January of 2007, we have -- we received no telephone calls from the judgment debtor.
- Q. The debtor never sent any correspondence saying he received a letter on January 13, 2007, never sent you a letter back saying I got --
- 9 A. That is correct. In January 2007, there's no correspondence from the debtor.
- Q. You never received any slip from the post office, again, saying that he signed for this letter, receipt of this letter?
- A. We would not have received a slip from the post office.
- Q. But you didn't send it certified; correct?
- 17 A. We did not send the letter certified.
- 18 Q. All right. So let's look again at May 10,
- 19 2011, and you send a letter to 1571 Eggert Road, as
- 20 well as an information subpoena to that address; is
- 21 that correct?

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- 22 A. No, that would not be correct.
- 23 O. I see May 10, 2011, document, letter to debtor.
- 24 What address? What address was that letter sent to?
- 25 A. I don't know from this computer print-out what

1 address that notice would have been sent to. I might 2 be able to determine that address however, either 3 looking at the document or seeing if there was another If I had to guess, I would say we sent the 4 address. letter and the information subpoena to 102 Reiman 5 6 Street. 7 O. At one point though -- well, I'm showing you a document that's been produced in response to 8 9 plaintiff's request for discovery to the defendant. 10 It's labeled Chiari 132. It's an April 4, 2011 letter addressed to William J. Wagner, Junior at 1571 Eggert 11 12 Road, Amherst, New York 14226. So any indication that 13 the debtor received this letter other than the 14 presumption of mailing? 15 There is no indication that the defendant Α. received this letter. I mean, he didn't get the 16 17 letter. 18 Ο. Okay. There's an indication he did not. 19 Α. 20 And so then next you send this letter, May 10, Ο. 2.1 2011; is that right? And that's the next letter that would have went? 2.2 23 Α. Correct.

MR. WOODARD: Chiari 138.

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BY MR. ANDREWS:

- Yeah, Chiari 138. Ο.
- 2 Α. Correct, Chiari 138 is a letter sent to the 3 judgment debtor on May 10, 2011.
  - Any indication that he received this letter? Ο.
- Α. Yes. 5

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- And how do you know that? Ο.
- 7 The letter was not returned by the post office and the presumption of mailing. 8
- Okay. Outside of those two, again, the William Ο. J. Wagner, Junior never called in; correct? 10 After sending out this letter? 11
  - Well, I have to look at the rest of the events to see if he ever called in. If you're asking if he called in within a month of the letter, it does not appear that we had contact from the judgment debtor in response to this letter.
- Did he ever send any -- can you tell if he ever 17 18 sent any correspondence in response to this letter?
  - Again, it appears that there was no correspondence from the defendant -- from the judgment debtor within a reasonable time after this letter.
- 22 And was that information subpoena, was that 23 returned?
  - Α. Which information subpoena?
- 25 The information subpoena sent to 102 Reiman Ο.

1 Street, floor two? 2 MR. WOODARD: What's the date on this? 3 THE WITNESS: Yeah, if you're -- there's an event where an information subpoena was sent on May 4 10th or at least created on May 10, 2011. 5 BY MR. ANDREWS: 6 7 Ο. Same date as this letter; correct? Chiari 138? Correct, the two would have been created at the 8 Α. same time. 9 And sent out together? 10 Ο. No, not in the same -- no, not sent out 11 Α. 12 together. So just to, again, to speed things up, it 13 appears that the information subpoena was returned to my office on June 8, 2011 by the USPS unclaimed. 14 15 And then in response, you served a subpoena or attempted to serve a subpoena on the debtor? 16 17 Well, in response, it's not a response to the 18 post --June 27, 2011, the letter to server to serve? 19 Ο. 20 What we did after receiving the unclaimed envelope from the postal service, we issued a subpoena 2.1 to take depositions, subpoena duces tecum, and --22 23 The debtor exam. Ο. 24 And we sent that subpoena duces tecum out to a

process server by letter dated June 27, 2011.

- Q. And did that process server indicate that service was successful?
  - A. On -- no.

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- O. What did he indicate?
- 5 A. Well, I'm looking at an entry from July 10,
- 6 2011 where the process server stated that the
- 7 defendant moved from the address at 102 Reiman Street,
- 8 floor two. Well, it doesn't say he moved from 102
- 9 Reiman Street, floor two, but the address where we
- 10 sent the subpoena to, the debtor had moved out.
- 11 Q. Just handed you a document that's bates Chiari
- 12 | 156. Is that the affidavit that you were just
- 13 referring to?
- 14 A. This is the affidavit of the process server
- 15 indicating that the judgment debtor had moved from 102
- 16 Reiman Street, floor two, and that the process server
- was unable to serve the subpoena duces tecum.
- 18 Q. So and the judgment was in May of '06?
- 19 A. I don't know when the judgment was entered. I
- 20 have no reason to doubt that, but I don't know when it
- 21 was entered.
- 22 Q. Let's just make sure we've got the right --
- 23 yeah, May of '06. Okay, so May of '06 judgment is
- 24 taken and now we're at July?
- 25 A. Again, I just want to clarify. I'm not saying

1 the judgment was entered in May of '06. I'll accept 2 what you're saying for the purposes of this 3 deposition. The judgment was entered I'm sure sometime before we obtained the file. 4 I'm happy to show you, but if you want to, you 5 know, if you're going to accept --6 7 I don't know the relevance, but I'm saying I can't just simply accept what you're telling me. 8 9 will accept for the purposes of the deposition that it 10 was May of '06 when the judgment was entered. And now we're at July of 2011, and has there 11 12 been any monies collected on this account? 13 Again, I don't know what would have been collected prior to September 12, 2006. 14 15 From September of -- so September of '06 to... Ο. September 12th of 2006. 16 Α. 17 Ο. To July of 2011, any monies collected on the account to date between that time period? 18 19 Α. No. 20 So it's fair to say you had a tough time Ο. 2.1 locating this guy? 2.2 Α. That is fair to say, correct.

that my client, William J. Wagner, is the debtor?

I don't know, can't answer that.

Is it defendant's position as we sit here today

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Α.

- Q. So you can't speak one way or another whether my client, Mr. Wagner, owes the debt to MJ Peterson that you're trying to collect?
- A. As I've answered, I cannot answer whether the plaintiff is the judgment debtor in the action MJ

  Peterson, LLC versus William J. Wagner, Junior.
- Q. Showing you a document that was previously marked as an exhibit in plaintiff's deposition?
- 9 A. It's Exhibit H.
- MR. WOODARD: Exhibit H from the plaintiff's deposition, right, correct.
- 12 BY MR. ANDREWS:

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- Q. Yeah, have you ever seen that document before in preparation --
- 15 A. I probably have seen the document before, but I 16 don't remember.
- Q. You didn't review it in preparation for today's deposition?
- A. I did not review this document in preparation for today's deposition.
- 21 Q. Is that a transcript of a judgment?
- A. It appears to be a transcript of a judgment issued from the city court of Buffalo.
  - Q. And who is the judgment debtor?
- 25 A. The judgment debtor is William J. Wagner,

1	Junior.
2	Q. And what's the address?
3	A. 378 Windermere Boulevard, Amherst, New York
4	14226.
5	Q. Thank you. So I'm going to ask you again, as
6	we sit here today, my client, William J. Wagner, who
7	never resided at 378 Windermere Boulevard, is he the
8	judgment debtor?
9	MR. WOODARD: Form.
10	THE WITNESS: I don't know where your
11	client resided, so my answer is going to be I don't
12	know. It's the third time I've been asked.
13	MR. ANDREWS: Don't you think it's
14	important to be able to identify who the proper debtor
15	is?
16	MR. WOODARD: Form.
17	THE WITNESS: You're arguing.
18	MR. WOODARD: Form.
19	BY MR. ANDREWS:
20	Q. I'm just saying as a policy of Chiari & Ilecki,
21	is it important to be able to identify?
22	A. Who the judgment debtor is?
23	Q. Yes.
24	A. Yes.
25	Q. And in this case, you can't make that

1	determination; is that correct?
2	MR. WOODARD: Form.
3	THE WITNESS: I don't have a policy of
4	identifying people that sue me.
5	BY MR. ANDREWS:
6	Q. That's not what I asked.
7	A. Yes, it is what you asked.
8	Q. Your office was retained by MJ Peterson to
9	collect a judgment against William J. Wagner, Junior;
10	correct?
11	A. Goldstein, Bulan and Chiari was initially
12	retained and then they merged into Bulan, Chiari,
13	Horwitz and Ilecki.
14	Q. Your office is handling the account; correct?
15	A. Correct.
16	Q. And is it important to be able to identify the
17	debtor and/or to satisfy that judgment?
18	A. Yes, I've already answered that.
19	Q. Okay. Is there a procedure in place for
20	accounts with judgments to be able to collect on these
21	accounts?
22	A. Yes.
23	Q. What's that procedure?
24	MR. WOODARD: Form.
25	THE WITNESS: The procedure the

question I think is so overbroad I can't answer it.

BY MR. ANDREWS:

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- Q. All right. We're going to go step by step. I come to you. I'm a client. I've got a judgment I want you to satisfy. What's the first step? I say Bill, I need your help satisfying this judgment.
- A. The first step is to obtain information as to the court, obtain copies of the judgment, obtain identifying characteristics of the judgment debtor, work out a fee agreement, explain the terms of any reimbursement for disbursement, and I will tell you what you're asking involves quite a bit of detail. So I may forget some steps, but you also have to ensure that your client's legitimate, and if you work out those issues, then a search is done as to the judgment debtor.
- Q. Okay. That's -- let's go from there.
- A. And again, it was a relatively open-ended issue, but the search involves a review of whether it be Lexis or Westlaw, which has information as to addresses and some asset information. It may require also a review of other court documents or clerk's office documents. Usually, Westlaw or Lexis will give me clues as to additional searches that would have to be done. If I choose to take on the case and I tell

the client what I think the prospects are of collection and I work out the letter of engagement and obtain the consent and file the consent, after opening the file on our system, then -- and determining an address based on my research, a credit report would also be run, an employment search could be done. Not always? Not always. Sometimes even a credit report Α. can't be run, especially if you don't have a social security number. Do you once you've -- what you've explained as far as doing the different searches and identify what you think is a good address, do you send a dunning letter or demand letter to that debtor? It's not a demand letter, no. Α. What do you send, correspondence? Ο.

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- 17 Α. Yes.

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- And what's that correspondence? 18 Ο.
  - The correspondence consists of enclosing a copy Α. of the consent, a copy of the judgment, the balance information, a notice as to the possibility of additional interest or charges -- and I'm generalizing, there are specifics -- the fair debt
- 24 language and the judgment debtor notice of CPLR 5222.
- 25 Paul, I apologize, my turn MR. ANDREWS:

1 not to have a stapler. 2 Mr. Chiari, I just showed you a document. 3 Did you review that document prior to today's deposition? 4 MR. WOODARD: Just for the record, Chiari 5 1 to 3. 6 7 MR. ANDREWS: Sorry. 8 THE WITNESS: I suspect I saw the 9 document. I did not review the document preparing for today's deposition. 10 BY MR. ANDREWS: 11 12 Q. Is that the letter that you just testified a 13 few moments ago that you would send out to the debtor, 14 is that the type of letter? 15 You mean the initial letter after a file is Α. opened by me? 16 17 Ο. Yes. 18 Α. No. 19 When does that type of letter get sent? Ο. 20 Well, this type of letter would be sent in a Α. 2.1 lot of different circumstances. One would be if -and by the way, I'll reference this letter. This is a 22 23 letter which basically encloses the 5222 notice and 24 does provide a judgment balance, and this letter would

be sent if we were to take some type of action,

whether it be a restraining notice or an income execution as required, issue possibly a subpoena with that restraining notice or it's a standard letter that we send when we are trying to confirm an address. If we obtain a new address, we'll often send this letter.

- Q. Hoping that the person it's addressed to is going to contact you?
- A. Actually, no. I mean, just hoping we can
  confirm the address is our primary reason for sending
  the letter.
- Q. Absent the assumption of mailing, how would you --
  - A. You mean the presumption of mailing?
- 14 O. I'm sorry, yeah. Thank you.

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Absent that, if you don't expect the debtor to
or the person the letter's addressed to contact you,
how are you going to confirm that --

- A. I didn't say I don't expect the debtor to contact us. I said it's not the primary purpose of us sending the letter. In fact, we don't ask for a debtor to contact us.
- Q. What's your -- what is your intention when you send that letter to collect a debt?
  - A. It's part of a process to collect a debt.
- Q. Okay, and you just previously testified that

you send that to confirm the address of the debtor?

A. Primarily.

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BY MR. ANDREWS:

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- Q. Primarily to confirm --
- A. Actually, I didn't state that because if I'm intending on serving a restraining notice I have to send a 5222 notice, so there are many reasons why I would send this letter. One of the reasons would be to confirm an address. If I have nothing else that I'm doing on the account, this letter would often go out to confirm an address.
- Q. And if it doesn't come back as undelivered, then Chiari & Ilecki's policy is that's a good address?

MR. WOODARD: Form.

THE WITNESS: I wouldn't say it's Chiari and Ilecki's policy that it's a good address. Based on the Lexis search or credit report search, we probably have a good reason to believe it's a good address, and I would say in most cases I would believe it's a good address, but I won't always be certain it's a good address. I'd have to look at each file. If you're asking generally, I could say generally I would presume it's a good address, but not always.

METSCHL & ASSOCIATES
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Looking at that document, the February 2, 2015

- 1 letter, it's addressed to William J. Wagner, Junior;
  2 correct?
  - A. Just to clarify, I'm showing February 9th.
- 4 Q. I'm sorry, February 9th. Thank you.
- A. So if you're asking me if the February 9, 2015
- 6 letter, Chiari 0 or Chiari 1, a letter addressed
- 7 William J. Wagner, Junior, 5419 Roberts Road, Hamburg,
- 8 New York 14075.

- 9 Q. Does a William J. Wagner, Junior live at that 10 address?
- 11 A. I don't know if William J. Wagner, Junior lives
- 12 at that address.
- Q. So you sent a letter with a restraining notice
- 14 to a William J. Wagner, Junior that you don't know if
- 15 he lives at that address; is that correct?
- MR. WOODARD: Object to form.
- 17 THE WITNESS: First of all, I didn't send
- 18 a letter with a restraining notice.
- 19 BY MR. ANDREWS:
- 20 O. Did a restraining notice go out that day?
- 21 A. I don't know. I'm looking at a letter.
- 22 There's no restraining notice with this letter.
- 23 O. Well, let's look back to Chiari 165, and we
- look at the event date of 2/9/2015?
- 25 A. Okay.

- Q. And there's a letter to debtor and information subpoena to debtor?
- A. Correct.

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- Q. So you did send out an information subpoena on February 9, 2015?
- A. First of all, I didn't send out an information subpoena on February 9, 2015. Our records reflect the fact that an information subpoena was prepared on February 9, 2015.
- 10 Q. So it was prepared, but not sent?
- A. I'm not saying it wasn't sent. I'm saying I didn't do that.
- Q. I'm not -- you're not testifying as to Bill

  Ilecki. I'm saying the firm, right, as the 30(b)(6)

  witness did -- did --
  - A. Well, I can testify as a thirty -- listen, I'm testifying still on my own personal knowledge. I'm reading the same thing you're reading. An information subpoena was prepared by Melissa Overbeck. I believe she would have signed the information subpoena immediately after preparing and provide that document to a legal assistant to mail. There's documentary proof of the mailing.
- Q. So it was sent out then?
- 25 A. I believe it was sent out, correct.

1	Q. Okay. That February 9, 2015 letter, that
2	wasn't mistakenly sent to that address, was it?
3	A. The if you're talking about the letter which
4	is Chiari 1, the address or the letter is addressed to
5	William J. Wagner, Junior, 5419 Roberts Road, Hamburg,
6	New York 14075, that was intentionally that
7	information is intentionally placed on this letter,
8	and the letter
9	Q. At that address?
10	A. Correct, the name and address.
11	Q. You intended to send that letter to the person
12	residing at that address?
13	MR. WOODARD: Object to form.
14	THE WITNESS: Melissa Overbeck would have
15	prepared this letter.
16	BY MR. ANDREWS:
17	Q. But what I'm
18	A. There's no reason to believe she did not intend
19	to send the address send the letter to William J.
20	Wagner at the address provided on Chiari 1.
21	Q. What I'm asking though is your intention was to
22	send that letter to whoever resided at that address?
23	MR. WOODARD: Object to form.
24	THE WITNESS: Yeah, because you're asking
25	the question incorrectly and I've answered it. We

1 intended -- I can testify that Melissa -- I'm going to 2 presume Melissa mailed this letter, intended to mail 3 the letter to William J. Wagner, Junior at 5419 Roberts Road, Hamburg, New York 14075, but that's not 4 the question you asked, so I can't answer the question 5 you asked unless you clarify whether we intended to 6 7 send the letter as addressed. We didn't simply send the letter to anybody at that address. 8 9 BY MR. ANDREWS: You intended to send it as addressed? 10 Ο. 11 Α. Correct. 12 At that point, is the firm's policy that this 13 individual at that address is the debtor; correct? 14 Α. Okay. 15 MR. WOODARD: Form. THE WITNESS: Again, are you asking me if 16 at the time, February 9, 2015, the firm believed that 17 the judgment debtor was William J. Wagner, Junior 18 19 residing at the address listed on the letter, Chiari 20 That is correct. 2.1 MR. ANDREWS: So let's go back to Chiari 165, event date is February 9, 2015 and the notes 22 23 indicate that a William Wagner calls office. He lives 24 at the Roberts Road address, claims not him. He's not

a junior. Claims this has been REC stuff for last

1 six, seven years for D, presumably is debtor. Gave me 2 last couple numbers of social security, SS, hashtag, paren is sixteen. Told him would note file and E-mail 3 attorney, e-mailed MO, and I assume MO is Melissa 4 5 Overbeck? THE WITNESS: Correct. 6 7 MR. WOODARD: Just to clarify, I think that's the February 12th entry. 8 9 THE WITNESS: That is correct. It is the February 12, 2015 entry. MO would be Melissa 10 11 Overbeck, but your question was whether MO relates to 12 Melissa Overbeck, and yes, MO does relate to Melissa 13 Overbeck. (Whereupon, Exhibit Plaintiff's B, an 14 15 E-mail, was marked for identification.) BY MR. ANDREWS: 16 You've been handed a document that's Chiari 17 159, Plaintiff's Exhibit B. Have you ever seen this 18 19 document prior to today? 20 I might have. Α. 2.1 It's an E-mail from Karen Sandford. She's a Ο. 22 paralegal at your office? 23 She's a legal assistant. Α. 24 To Melissa Overbeck, who is an attorney at your

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office?

- A. Correct, Melissa Overbeck is an attorney at my office.
  - Q. And it's dated February 12, 2015, and I'm just going to read what it states. A William Wagner called office who lives at the Roberts Road address, claims it's not him. Gave me last two numbers of his social security and didn't match what we have. Is that what it states?
- 9 A. Well, it actually says a William Wagner called 10 office who lives at the Roberts RD address, comma, 11 claims not him, period. Gave me two numbers of his 12 SS.
- 13 Q. Last, last, but...

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- A. I'm -- I'm not reading anything that has -- oh,
  last two numbers. Gave me last two numbers of his SS
  and the number sign and didn't match with what we
  have, period.
- Q. So SS and hashtag, is that your understanding that's social security? That's short for social security?
- A. I would have interpreted that as social security number.
  - Q. Got that cleared up.
- Did Melissa contact you ever about this E-mail?
- MR. WOODARD: Are you asking --

1 THE WITNESS: I don't know about the 2 E-mail. I mean, it's -- if you're asking if she ever 3 specifically contacted me about this E-mail, I don't I don't remember. know. 4 5 BY MR. ANDREWS: She wouldn't have e-mailed you? 6 Ο. 7 Are you asking me whether she would have in usual course have e-mailed me? 8 9 Strike that. Is there a protocol for an -- is Ο. she -- strike. 10 Is Melissa an associate? 11 12 Α. Correct, she's an associate. 13 Is there a protocol for an associate at Chiari & Ilecki to follow when being notified from a legal 14 15 assistant that a person is disputing being the debtor? 16 Α. Yes. 17 What is that protocol? Melissa would or the attorney would attempt to 18 19 verify whether the information provided by the person 20 calling is correct and whether the address that we had 2.1 for a debtor is correct. And looking at the activity log, is there 22 23 anything to indicate that that was done in this case? 24 Α. Yes.

Show me where that is on the activity log.

1 MR. WOODARD: You're talking just about 2 after February 12, 2015? BY MR. ANDREWS: 3 February 12th she gets an E-mail from Karen 4 stating that a William Wagner called in who says he's 5 not the debtor, and you just testified that the 6 7 protocol is to verify this, so I'm asking for you to show me where on the activity log after 2012 (sic) 8 Melissa or someone else from the firm did that 9 10 verification? On the activity log, it appears that the next 11 12 entry was June 5, 2015. Actually, I have to -- no, 13 that is -- it's June 5, 2015. 14 O. So let's go back to the log. You received a call from Mr. Wagner on February 12, 2015, and then 15 you received a second call from Mr. Wagner on March 16 17 19, 2015; is that correct? According to this --18 Α. 19 According to the activity log? Ο. 20 -- Chiari 165, there was a telephone call on Α. 2.1 March 19, 2015, not from the debtor though. from somebody who claimed he was not the debtor. 2.2 23 mean, that's what the notes say. He is not debtor, 24 advise we e-mailed attorney, so William Wagner called. 25 The gentleman who called claims he is not the debtor.

1 So two times your office receives a call from Q. 2 someone saying he's not the debtor, and the next 3 action is a debtor exam is prepared and a letter sent 4 to a process server to serve that person; is that correct? 5 MR. WOODARD: 6 Form. 7 THE WITNESS: No, no, that actually is not correct. 8 9 MR. ANDREWS: So what happened in between those two phone calls and the time that the subpoena 10 11 was drafted and sent to the process server to be 12 served? Is there --THE WITNESS: Again --13 14 MR. WOODARD: Form. 15 THE WITNESS: -- your question is presuming something that didn't happen. So after the 16 17 telephone call, and again, I'm referencing Chiari 165. After the telephone call, we received on May 11, 2015 18 19 from the United States Postal Service a return of the 20 information subpoena as unclaimed. A subpoena was 2.1 prepared by the paralegal to be given to the attorney. 22 The paralegal can't sign the subpoena. That subpoena 23 didn't go out. Melissa before sending the subpoena 24 reviewed the file as she's required to do, ran a 25 search of Lexis, and actually in this case I think she

- 1 also -- she can testify to that, but she had told me
- 2 she also checked at some point Real Info, which
- 3 basically is a program that can find real property
- 4 assessment information. Melissa would have done the
- 5 review to determine whether we had a good address for
- 6 the judgment debtor. She would have done that review
- 7 on June 5, 2015.
- 8 BY MR. ANDREWS:
- Q. And that review indicates that LX, that stands
- 10 for Lexis?
- 11 A. I -- yeah, I believe she -- that would have
- 12 been her initial for Lexis.
- 13 Q. It says -- looks like WW, comma, SR, period, so
- 14 I assume that's William Wagner, Senior, and WW, comma,
- 15 | JR, period, William Wagner, Junior, live at same
- 16 address. Advised action to be sure to serve correct
- 17 DBTR, debtor?
- 18 A. Yeah, that is the notation.
- 19 Q. So what report did she rely on? Did you
- 20 produce that reference report that she relied on?
- 21 A. I don't know if that Lexis report was produced.
- 22 I doubt we could have produced a report from June 5,
- 23 2015. We don't print or save the reports. You may
- 24 have a report that would have had a date after June 5,
- 25 | 2015. I do not know if it was produced.

- Q. Is that the report you're referring to?
- A. I have a report, Chiari 182. It's a report from Lexis dated December 31, 2015.
- 4 MR. WOODARD: Chiari 182 to 191.
- THE WITNESS: Oh, I'm sorry.
- 6 BY MR. ANDREWS:

- 7 Q. So you have this report. You obviously printed
- 8 this. It's not your procedure to print reports that
- 9 you used to determine the address of someone you're
- 10 going to serve a debtor exam on?
- 11 A. We do not print. It is my policy not to print
- 12 the Lexis reports.
- Q. But you printed this one?
- 14 A. Generally.
- 15 Q. You printed this one. So why did you print
- 16 this one, the December 31st, and you didn't print the
- one that Melissa...
- 18 A. I think you -- this was printed in -- either in
- 19 response to your disclosure request or in anticipation
- 20 of litigation.
- Q. Going back to your prior testimony, when you
- 22 said there's a procedure in place to work accounts
- 23 that have judgment, is one of the actions undertaken
- 24 by the firm to send a subpoena duces tecum?
- 25 A. That is one of the enforcement mechanisms that

we employ when appropriate.

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- Q. And you send that to a debtor; correct?
- A. A subpoena duces tecum can be sent to my
  debtor. In my office, it's usually sent to a debtor.

  It can be usually sent to non-debtors as well.
  - O. Non-debtors that --
  - A. Non-judgment debtors.
  - Q. In what regard would you send a subpoena duces tecum to a non-debtor?
- MR. WOODARD: Form, go ahead.
  - THE WITNESS: Well, again, there's an exhaustive list of cases, but probably the most common circumstance when you might send a subpoena duces tecum to a non-debtor is if you have an employer that's not cooperating with an income execution that you feel the person is employed and you want to get some documentation as to payment history or some information as to why they're not complying with an
- 19 income execution. We used to send sometimes
- 20 information to a bank if you needed to see bank
- 21 records. Mostly when you need to see documentation is
- when it's really valuable as to non-debtors.
- 23 BY MR. ANDREWS:
- Q. So fair to say you've sent it to a third-party
  when they have some connection to the debtor, usually

- a financial connection?
- 2 A. You have to, that's the law. There has to be a
- 3 reason why you're sending a subpoena to a third-party.
- 4 You have to have a good faith belief that a
- 5 third-party has information.
- Q. Just so we're clear, if you're not sending it
- 7 to the debtor, the third-party has to have some kind
- 8 of connection to that debtor?
- A. You have to have a reasonable belief that there
- 10 is a reason why the third-party might have information
- 11 or documentation.
- 12 (Whereupon, Exhibit Plaintiff's C, a Real
- 13 Info print-out, was marked for identification.)
- 14 BY MR. ANDREWS:
- 15 Q. So you've got a document that's been marked as
- 16 | Plaintiff's Exhibit C, and it's based stamped Chiari
- 17 192?

- 18 A. Okay.
- 19 Q. And it's -- the top it says real-info.com. Is
- 20 this the -- is this a copy of a snapshot of a website
- 21 that your firm utilizes to identify addresses of
- 22 debtors?
- A. Among other things, yes.
- Q. And you testified that Melissa used this Real
- 25 I'll refer to it as in order to identify the debtor's

address as 5419 Roberts Road; is that right?

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- A. I think I testified that I believe Melissa did run a Real Info or Real record search.
  - Q. Is this the search to the best of your knowledge that she ran?
- A. It wouldn't have been the search because the date of this document is May 9, 2016, but just to make things easy, the results probably would have been the same. You know what, I have to -- actually, I have to take that back because I see there's a sale date, 4/23/15, so that sale may not have appeared on the date that Melissa may have run her Real Info search. Generally, the information would be the same; however, in terms of the property description, the tax
- in terms of the property description, the tax information would have a different tax year that might have a different assessed value.
- Q. The ownership would be the same, assuming it's a refi; is that right?
  - A. In this case, because of the fact it was a very recent sale, I'm not sure that the 2015 transfer -- you can see there was a transfer in 2015. I'm not sure that would have shown up on the search run by Melissa.
- Q. And this particular document doesn't reference
  William J. Wagner, Junior at 5419 Roberts Road;

## 1 correct? 2 Α. Well, it references -- it speaks for itself. It references a William Wagner at 5419 Roberts Road, 3 Hamburg, New York 14075. 4 But the debtor is William J. Wagner, Junior. 5 It's a different name; correct? 6 7 MR. WOODARD: Form. 8 THE WITNESS: No, it's not. 9 MR. ANDREWS: William Wagner and William J. Wagner, Junior are not different names? 10 MR. WOODARD: Form. 11 12 THE WITNESS: They can be -- listen, they 13 can be the same name. My name is William Ilecki. It's also William J. Ilecki. It's the same name. 14 Ι 15 mean, I answer to both. If you're arguing that William Wagner is identical in every respect to 16 17 William J. Wagner, Junior, of course not. A J and a junior are missing. 18 BY MR. ANDREWS: 19 20 I am going to show you a document that was produced in response to plaintiff's discovery demands. 2.1 It's labeled Chiari 180 to 181. It's a Trans Union 2.2 23 report. Have you ever seen this particular report 24 before today? 25 I probably have seen the report. I don't Α.

remember specifically if I have received the report.

- Q. If you look on page 181, was this report run on February 12, 2015?
- A. The notation on the report is February 12, 2015 at 11:30 -- I'm sorry, 10:11 a.m. central standard
- 6 time I think.

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- Q. If we look back at Chiari 165, the activity
  log, does the pulling of this report, can you identify
  that occurred based on that activity log, the events
  report? The pulling of this report on 2/12/2015, can
  you identify that on the events log?
- 12 A. A credit report was ordered based on the events 13 log on February 9, 2015.
- Q. So is it fair to say this was the report that corresponds with that?
- A. It is fair to say that this report would have been created in response to the request on February 9, 2015.
- 19 Q. Okay. Did you review this report?
- 20 A. I just said I'm not sure if I've ever looked at it before, I probably have.
- Q. Can you tell based on the event log if an attorney reviewed it?
- 24 A. Yes.
- Q. Did an attorney review it?

1 Α. Yes. 2 Ο. What date did the attorney review it on? It appears June 5, 2015. Now, is it possible 3 Α. that an attorney could have reviewed it before June 5, 4 2015? Just glance at it quickly, it's possible. 5 Do you know if Melissa reviewed this report 6 7 upon receiving the E-mail from Karen that Mr. Wagner called in in dispute that he was the debtor? 8 Α. I don't know. Looking at this report, does anywhere on this 10 report identify the Roberts Road address as an address 11 12 for William Wagner, Junior? 13 Α. No. (Whereupon, Exhibit Plaintiff's D, a Trans 14 15 Union report, was marked for identification.) BY MR. ANDREWS: 16 Looking at Chiari 165 again, the event log, the 17 March 19, 2015 entry, telephone call, William Wagner, 18 19 CO, dash, says he is not DBTR, debtor. Says his DOB, 20 date of birth, is in 1950. Dash, very 2.1 upset that he is getting LTRS, letters, from our 22 office. Dash, ADV, advise him can send a copy of DL, 23 driver's license, and SS, pound, social security, if 24 he'd like. Slash or dash, he says for us to just let 25 WI, I assume that's William Ilecki, know that he is

- 1 not DBTR, debtor. Dash, ADV, advise we did e-mail
- 2 ATNY. Is this -- did I read that right?
- 3 A. I would agree that the abbreviations, that
- 4 you've correctly identified the language and the
- 5 intention here.
- 6 Q. So and that was a -- Kristian; is that right?
- 7 A. Kristian.
- Q. Yeah, Kristian, is that a legal assistant in
- 9 your office?
- 10 A. Correct.
- 11 Q. Did you receive that E-mail from Kristian?
- 12 A. This was not an E-mail. This would -- this
- isn't created as an E-mail. It's actually an entry on
- 14 our database.
- 15 Q. What I'm asking you is the note says advise we
- 16 did e-mail attorney. Did you receive an E-mail from
- 17 him, like how Karen e-mailed --
- 18 A. I know. I know. Your question was different
- 19 though, so if you're asking me did I receive an E-mail
- 20 from Kristian?
- 21 O. Yes.
- 22 A. The answer is no, not in response to this
- 23 telephone call. The answer is no.
- 24 Q. Did you receive some communication from
- 25 Kristian in response to this telephone call?

1	A. I don't remember Kristian talking about the
2	telephone call with me. I mean, it is possible she
3	talked to me about it, but I just don't remember it.
4	Q. So when she says advise we did e-mail, there
5	was no E-mail; that's incorrect?
6	MR. WOODARD: Form.
7	THE WITNESS: No, your question is
8	incorrect. Your presumption is incorrect.
9	MR. ANDREWS: Does it read
10	THE WITNESS: Read it, Seth. Advise we
11	did e-mail attorney. We did. Karen e-mailed the
12	attorney.
13	MR. WOODARD: Plaintiff's B.
14	BY MR. ANDREWS:
15	Q. Okay, so we e-mailed the attorney in the past
16	is what
17	A. We did.
18	Q. Okay. Okay. That's what you're saying. Okay.
19	MR. WOODARD: Should we take a five-minute
20	break then? Is now a good time?
21	THE WITNESS: Do you need one? I just
22	want to say I don't need a break.
23	MR. WOODARD: Are we off?
24	(A discussion was held off the record.)
25	BY MR. ANDREWS:

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Ο.

Is there a procedure for when a person provides Ο. identifiers, in this case some other social security number, as well as their date of birth, with respect to verifying if that's the debtor? Α. Yes. What's that procedure? Ο. Well, again, it's a very broad statement, but the procedure involves an attorney receiving notification and the attorney having to review whether it be a credit report, a public record search, some of the other search tools we have such as Real Info, Lexis or Westlaw in making a determination whether we need additional information or whether the information provided by the person making the telephone call was correct or not correct. Is this policy in writing anywhere? Α. No. Was it a mistake to have the subpoena duces tecum served on the Roberts Road address? MR. WOODARD: Form. THE WITNESS: I don't know. BY MR. ANDREWS:

Was that subpoena sent to that process server

You don't know if it was a mistake?

No, I don't know.

1	with the intention to have the person residing at the
2	Roberts Road address served?
3	MR. WOODARD: Object to form.
4	THE WITNESS: Again, again, yeah, I mean,
5	your the form of your question is wrong. I can
6	answer, and then if you want to follow-up with a
7	question, I'll provide you with testimony. It was the
8	intention of the firm, as I testified, to serve the
9	judgment debtor at the address provided in the
10	provided to the process server as long as the judgment
11	debtor resided, worked or at that address or that
12	address was the usual place of abode or dwelling
13	place.
14	MR. ANDREWS: Did you make any error or
15	mistake at any point during your contacts with my
16	client, Mr. Wagner, with respect to attempting to
17	collect the judgment in favor of MJ Peterson, Inc.?
18	MR. WOODARD: Object to form.
19	THE WITNESS: Again, in terms of the
20	contacts that were made with your client, could you
21	please could you please specify which
22	communications you're referencing?
23	MR. ANDREWS: The February 9th letter.
24	MR. WOODARD: Object to form.
25	THE WITNESS: Okay. Here's okay, and I

- 1 understand the objection to form. We didn't send the
- 2 February 9th letter to anyone other than the judgment
- 3 debtor.
- 4 BY MR. ANDREWS:
- 5 Q. You sent it to William J. Wagner, Junior at
- 6 5419 Roberts Road, Hamburg, New York 14075; correct?
- 7 A. Correct.
- Q. Who resides at 5419 Roberts Road, Hamburg, New
- 9 York 14075?
- MR. WOODARD: Form.
- 11 THE WITNESS: I don't know.
- MR. ANDREWS: So it's possible you're
- sending a collection letter to someone that's not the
- 14 debtor?
- MR. WOODARD: Form.
- 16 THE WITNESS: No, that's not possible.
- 17 BY MR. ANDREWS:
- 18 Q. That's not possible?
- 19 A. No. In this case, no.
- 20 Q. So you alleged as an affirmative defense bona
- 21 fide error; correct?
- 22 A. In the answer, there is an affirmative defense
- 23 of bona fide error.
- Q. What's the error?
- 25 A. The error is as alleged by the plaintiff. To

the extent the plaintiff is correct in the plaintiff's allegation that there was a violation of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, we have a bona fide error defense as to that violation.

- O. What is the error?
- A. I don't think there's an error right now. I haven't made the determination if there is an error and I'm not the judge.
  - Q. Is it defendant's position that William J.
    Wagner, Junior, if he's not the debtor, by serving
    that person with a debtor exam, is that an attempt to
    collect a debt?
- MR. WOODARD: Object to form.
- THE WITNESS: In this one I've just lost the question, and if you could repeat it?
- 16 BY MR. ANDREWS:

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- Q. Sure, I'll try to clean it up a little bit.

  Is it defendant's position that service of a

  subpoena duces tecum, a debtor exam, is an attempt to

  collect a debt?
- A. I would agree that if you're talking about service of a subpoena in a -- in a post-judgment enforcement proceeding.
- 24 O. Correct.
- 25 A. That would be an attempt to collect a debt.

1	Q. And that subpoena was served on William J.
2	Wagner; correct?
3	MR. WOODARD: Form.
4	THE WITNESS: I don't know. I don't know.
5	BY MR. ANDREWS:
6	Q. If we look at Chiari 166, on 6/24/2015 of the
7	event log, action, dash, dash, AOS, dash, dash, ST
8	SDT, dash, dash, personal service, and that stands for
9	affidavit of service, subpoena duces tecum, personal
10	service, is that
11	A. I would agree that that would be the reference
12	in the abbreviation.
13	Q. So I'm going to ask you again, was William J.
14	Wagner served with a subpoena duces tecum?
15	MR. WOODARD: Form.
16	THE WITNESS: I don't know.
17	BY MR. ANDREWS:
18	Q. When you read that, what does that indicate to
19	you, someone was served?
20	A. What this entry indicates to me is that there
21	was personal service of the subpoena duces tecum.
22	Q. And where was do you know the address to
23	which that service was affected?
24	A. I don't have the document in front of me, but
25	the affidavit would speak for itself as to the

1 address. 2 Okay, fair enough. Do you have the burden as 3 the debt collector, the attorney, to identify the correct debtor or is the burden on the individual that 4 you're attempting to contact to identify themselves as 5 the debtor? 6 7 MR. WOODARD: Form. 8 THE WITNESS: Burden in what respect? mean, burden is a term of art. 9 MR. ANDREWS: Burden not from a legal 10 11 standpoint, burden as it's your job in order to 12 satisfy the judgment to the best of your firm's 13 ability for your client? 14 MR. WOODARD: Form. 15 THE WITNESS: It's my job to attempt to satisfy the judgment as legally permissible to the 16 best of my -- well, using reasonable means. 17 BY MR. ANDREWS: 18 19 Does a person that you contact with respect to Ο. 20 attempting to collect the judgment have any obligation 2.1 or duty to provide you with information that you can 22 ascertain their identity? 23 Α. Yes. 24 A non-debtor, a non-debtor has a duty to you? Ο.

Form.

MR. WOODARD:

1 THE WITNESS: I don't think you asked 2 that. BY MR. ANDREWS: 3 I'll clarify it as a non-debtor. 4 Α. A non-debtor can be required to provide 5 information to me by way -- absolutely, a non-debtor 6 7 can in some circumstances be required to provide information to me. 8 9 So hypothetically speaking, my client, Mr. Ο. Wagner, is not the debtor? 10 Hypothetically speaking. 11 Α. 12 Hypothetically speaking, is he required then to 13 provide you information verifying that he is not the 14 debtor? 15 MR. WOODARD: Form. THE WITNESS: If I subpoena your client, 16 17 that would be a requirement under the law. BY MR. ANDREWS: 18 What about a phone call, is he required to give 19 Ο. 20 you --2.1 There is no legal requirement for a non-debtor Α. to provide information identifying themselves as a 22 23 non-debtor during a telephone call with a 24 non-governmental agent. You're talking about a legal 25 requirement and I want to stress that.

Q. I just want to know if it's Chiari & Ilecki's
position as a policy, as a firm, that when they reach
out to consumers, to individuals that they believe is
a debtor, but they're not sure of, which is clearly in
this case based on your testimony
A. No, it's not my testimony.
MR. WOODARD: Object to form.
THE WITNESS: Absolutely, so ask it
differently. I'm not going to answer that question.
MR. ANDREWS: Is my client the debtor?
MR. WOODARD: Object to form.
THE WITNESS: I don't know.
BY MR. ANDREWS:
Q. So you can't say today whether he's the debtor?
A. I cannot.
Q. So my question is this. In this instance, you
don't know whether or not the person you've reached
out to via a letter, an attempted information subpoena
and a personal service of a debtor exam is the debtor;
correct?
MR. WOODARD: Form, object to form.
THE WITNESS: Actually, see, again, I've
already answered that, and really, I'm not trying to
be difficult. You're missing the point. We did reach

out to the debtor, to the judgment debtor. Every

- 1 action we've taken is against the judgment debtor.
- 2 Whether the judgment debtor is your client, I can't
- 3 answer that. That's the difference. What's with the
- 4 smirks, Seth?
- 5 BY MR. ANDREWS:
- Q. Because it's -- you can't have it both ways,
- 7 Bill. You can't have it both ways.
- 8 A. You actually can.
- 9 Q. I don't want to get into another argument
- 10 because it's not appropriate for this.
- If a person fails to respond to a subpoena, is
- 12 it common for your office to proceed with an
- 13 enforcement motion?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. And your office has --
- 16 A. Properly served subpoena.
- 17 Q. Yes, and your office has filed such motions in
- 18 the past?
- 19 A. When appropriate, we have filed motions to
- 20 enforce a subpoena.
- Q. In fact, is it in your written procedures to do
- 22 such?
- MR. WOODARD: Form.
- 24 THE WITNESS: It's not in my written -- if
- 25 you're talking about -- actually, I have to clarify.

1 I have a book that I've written, so it's in that. 2 BY MR. ANDREWS: 3 I've got the eight hundred pages of it right here. 4 Well, I don't know what you have right there, 5 Α. but I have written on this issue, so that would be my 6 7 policy and procedure in writing on that issue. So it's possible that if my client, Mr. Wagner, 8 didn't retain an attorney to assist him in not having 9 to proceed with attending a debtor exam based on being 10 11 served with a subpoena duces tecum, you would proceed 12 with an enforcement motion against him? 13 Not necessarily, we would proceed against an 14 enforcement procedure against the judgment debtor. 15 Well, you served him. You served someone at -you served someone at the Roberts Road address; 16 17 correct? 18 MR. WOODARD: Object to form. 19 THE WITNESS: I'm presuming the -- as I 20 said, the affidavit speaks for itself, so if you're 2.1 saying the affidavit says we served someone with a 22 subpoena duces tecum at the Roberts Road address? BY MR. ANDREWS: 23

Okay, you're dealing with that presumption?

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Α.

Yes.

Q. Yes.

- 2 A. Okay.
- Q. With that presumption, if there is a non-response to that subpoena, you would proceed with an endorsement motion; is that right?
- 6 MR. WOODARD: Form.
- 7 THE WITNESS: Again, I've answered that.
- 8 It depends on whether service was proper. It also
- 9 depends on other things. I mean, a judgment debtor
- 10 could file a bankruptcy, okay? But we would not -- we
- 11 would only proceed in appropriate circumstances with
- 12 an enforcement proceeding. That is our policy.
- 13 BY MR. ANDREWS:
- Q. Your policy is you wouldn't serve -- you would
- 15 not serve a debtor exam on an address that you didn't
- 16 believe the debtor resided at; correct?
- 17 A. Okay, again, again, we would not serve a
- 18 subpoena except as provided by law.
- 19 Q. What I'm asking is --
- 20 A. I've answered.
- 21 Q. No, you --
- 22 A. If you want to go to another question, you can.
- 23 O. You didn't answer. The question is you served
- 24 -- you served the subpoena on...
- 25 A. Seth, you asked me if I would serve a subpoena

at an address. There are many ways to serve a subpoena.

- Q. What I'm asking you is, you're serving that subpoena with the intention to serve the debtor; correct?
- A. A judgment debtor.
- 7 O. Yes.

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- A. In this case, a subpoena issued to a judgment debtor, the intention is to lawfully serve the judgment debtor.
- 11 Q. Okay. And you believed the debtor resided at 12 5419 Roberts Road; correct?
- 13 A. I believe Melissa absolutely believed that that 14 is the address where the judgment debtor resided.
  - Q. Despite two phone calls from Mr. Wagner saying that he's not junior?
    - A. Again, again, Melissa would have reviewed the E-mail from Karen Sandford and would have reviewed the events relative to the telephone calls as part of her analysis of whether -- of what the address was for the judgment debtor.
- Q. If we look back on Chiari 166 and we look at
  the activity log event 629, the second, or I'm sorry,
  was it maybe the first? Yeah, no, maybe it is the
  second, I apologize. I think it's reviewed credit

1 report, LX, which I think is Lexis. DMV confirmed 2 there's a William Wagner, W, slash, SS, pound, ending in 3918, comma, DOB, 50, living at Roberts RD, 3 period, not our DBTR, not our debtor. So seems that 4 based on that notation, the firm's realized that the 5 debtor doesn't reside at that address? 6 7 MR. WOODARD: Form. 8 THE WITNESS: That's absolutely incorrect. 9 MR. ANDREWS: You think there's two William Wagners living at that address? 10 11 MR. WOODARD: Form. 12 THE WITNESS: Well, you're asking what I 13 think. BY MR. ANDREWS: 14 15 The firm, I want to know what the firm --Ο. Α. But I believe there is a notation. 16 17 On page two looks it like WW, comma, SR, period, and WW, comma, JR live at the same address. 18 19 So it's your position that there's two William Wagners 20 at this address? 2.1 MR. WOODARD: Form. 22 THE WITNESS: It's my position that 23 Melissa reviewed the file, and whatever other reports 24 she looked at and inputted the information, that she believed it looks like WW, Senior and WW, Junior live 25

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    at same address.
                  MR. ANDREWS: I'm all set.
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 3
                  MR. WOODARD: Can give us just two
4
    minutes?
5
                  MR. ANDREWS: Yeah.
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                  (A recess was taken.)
7
                  MR. WOODARD: No questions from us.
8
                  ***12:10 p.m.***
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1	ERRATA SHEET
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3	PAGE LINE
4	change: "CHASE " FOR CASE reason: TYPO
5	change: "NOR" Fal OR
6	reason: TYPo
7	change: 'REINCOLD' FOR "RYAN GOLD'' reason: TYPO
8	20 20
9	reason: TYPO FOR JOIL - 2 PLACES
10	change: DELETE DERION ACTER ADDRESS
11	change: "POSTAL SERVICE FOR "POST"
12	reason: TYPO
13	change: reason:
14	change:
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16	change:reason:
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18	I WILLIAM ILECICI
19	that I did review and if necessary correct this
20	deposition and that the foregoing pages _ I through are a true and accurate recording of said proceedings.
21	PLE ERRATA CHANCES - WY,
22	Subscribed and sworn to before me this
23	13 day of
24	Notary Public MELISSA LYNN OVERBECK Notary Public - State of New York
25	Qualified in Erie County No. 020V6266364
	Commission Expires July 23, 2020

METSCHL & ASSOCIATES
Buffalo: 716-856-1906 Rochester: 585-697-0969

1 STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF ERIE 2 I, Molly Fenske, a Notary Public in and for the State of New York, do hereby certify: 3 4 That the witness whose testimony appears herein before was, before the commencement of his deposition, 5 duly sworn to testify to the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth; that such testimony was taken pursuant to notice at the time and place herein 6 set forth; that said testimony was taken down in 7 shorthand by me and thereafter under my supervision transcribed into the English language, and I hereby certify the foregoing testimony is a full, true and 8 correct transcription of the shorthand notes so taken. I further certify that I am neither counsel for nor related to any parties to said action, nor in 10 anywise interested in the outcome thereof. 11 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my 12 name this 8th day of November, 2016. 13 14 15 16 17 Notary Public 18 State of New York 19 20 2.1 2.2 23 24 25